

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: May YEAR: 2011
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Troy Lindquist Service Hydrologist
DATE: June 23, 2011	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

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An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Overview

Wet and cool conditions across eastern Idaho allowed the higher elevation snowpack to continue building through May. In an average year about two-thirds of the snowpack has melted by the end of May but that did not happen this year. The result was one of the deepest June 1 mountain snowpacks ever to occur across much of eastern Idaho including the headwaters of the Snake River and Bear River. The large snowpack caused water managers to draft Palisades Reservoir to near 10 percent of capacity in anticipation of large runoff volumes. The combination of reservoir releases, snowmelt and lower elevation rainfall caused water levels to rise above flood stage on the Henrys Fork River, Snake River, and the Portneuf River. In addition, there was extensive flooding of low lands along the Bear River upstream of Stewart Dam. The melting snowpack pushed numerous small creeks out of banks especially in counties near the Wyoming border. High flows on the Snake River below Palisades Dam caused bank erosion and structural concerns of levees and some bridges. Large releases from American Falls Reservoir resulted in the temporary closure of a stretch of the Snake River. Impacts of the late melt of such a large snowpack included delayed opening of many recreational use areas in the mountains. Six counties in the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area had Flood Disaster Declarations approved.

Flooding

The Henrys Fork River at St. Anthony (ANTI1) rose to minor flood stage on May 25 and 26. Flood stage is 7.0 feet and the river crested at 7.44 feet. A property about one mile east of St. Anthony along old Highway 20 had water surrounding it with a small amount of water in the crawl space and outbuildings of another property were flooded. Flooding of lowlands and pasturelands occurred near St. Anthony.



The Henrys Fork River near Rexburg (REXI1) reached flood stage on May 15 and remained above flood stage through the end of the month. The river crested at 10.96 feet on May 26 resulting in extensive low land flooding. Beaver Dick Park was flooded as were some river access recreational areas. Water covered portions of the road in the Warm Slough Access to a depth of around one foot.

The Snake River near Shelley (SHYI1) reached flood stage on May 16 and remained above flood stage through the end of the month. The river rose to major flood stage and a crest of 13.15 feet on May 28. County Road 700 North southwest of Firth was closed. A number of homes along 700 North were surrounded by water, flooding yards and several outbuildings. In Firth the Riverview Arena was partially underwater and extensive flooding of lowlands and agricultural fields occurred adjacent to the river between Firth and Rose.



The Snake River at Blackfoot (SNAI1) reached flood stage on May 10 and remained above flood stage through the end of the month. Water levels reached moderate flood stage and crested at 12.04 feet on May 29. There was widespread flooding in the Riverton area resulting in the closure of Riverton Road with several homes threatened. A number of homes and access roads were threatened in the Thomas area near Riverbend Road and Wilson Road. Berm construction and sandbagging appeared to have been successful in these areas. The Rose Levee broke on May 27 resulting in the washout of about 200 feet of levee structure. The levee break resulted in flows through the Rose Ponds Recreation Area flooding camping areas and a walking path. The Archery Range Road was flooded causing a resident to be evacuated from their property. Floodwaters encroached on I-15 but did not reach the highway. In Blackfoot, sub-water seepage into Jensens Grove caused minor flooding of the park and an industrial storage lot behind the Super 8 Motel and Blackfoot Medical Center. Flooding of lowlands and agricultural fields occurred adjacent to the river between Rose and Tilden Bridge.

The Portneuf River at Pocatello (PIHI1) reached flood stage on May 8 and remained above flood stage through the end of the month. The river rose to moderate flood stage and crested at 9.95 feet on May 28. Extensive low land flooding occurred near Inkom. Pasture and livestock corrals were flooded in the vicinity of the Portneuf River and Marsh Creek confluence. Lowland flooding occurred along the river between Portneuf Gap and the Cheyenne Avenue Bridge in Pocatello. Downstream of the concrete flood control channel through Pocatello minor flooding of lowlands and a city recreation trail occurred from Sacajawea Park to Pacific Recycling Park.

Bear Lake County - extensive lowland and field flooding occurred along the Bear River upstream of Stewart Dam. Two homes in the Dingle area were surrounded by water. Water encroached on some outbuildings and agricultural supplies were flooded in low lying areas. Water covered a portion of Pegram Road near the town of

Pegram. Water flowed across Poverty Flat Road near the intersection with Pegram Road. The Bear Border (BRBW4) river gage was inundated with water.



Bear Lake County - extensive lowland and field flooding occurred along the Thomas Fork near the Wyoming border. Water flowed across some county roads and some livestock corrals were inundated with water.

Bear Lake County - numerous small creeks draining east into Bear River and Bear Lake exceeded their banks and caused damage and washouts along back country roads. Montpelier Creek caused flooding of some properties in the canyon east of the town of Montpelier.

Bonneville County - there was extensive lowland flooding of lowlands along Pine Creek and damage to some secondary roads. There were numerous small mud slides along Highway 31 leading to Pine Creek Pass. Rainey Creek exceeded its banks and caused minor flooding of lowland and some driveways in the Swan Valley area. Fall Creek was periodically out of its banks and impacted a dirt road.

Cassia County - the evening of May 23 heavy rain caused flooding of roads and fields northwest of Heglar. Spotter reports indicated 2 inches of rain fell in about one hour.

Caribou County - small stream flooding occurred in the Slug Creek and Diamond Creek drainages and in numerous small drainages flowing toward Wyoming. Tincup Creek overflowed its banks and flooded some fields. Many back country roads were damaged or washed out. Land that had been prepped for new subdivisions near Freedom was flooded.

Clark County - flooding of pasture and agricultural fields occurred. Some roads in the Kilgore area were flooded and several roads were raised to avoid the flood waters.

Custer County - flooding occurred along Valley Creek in the Stanley area on May 16. Sections of Cow Camp Road were inundated with water and minor flooding occurred along the creek through Stanley.

Jefferson County – extensive road damage and washouts occurred along Kelly Canyon Road ([You Tube of Kelly Canyon Flooding](#)). Extensive lowland and agricultural field flooding occurred and a few properties had

minor flooding in the yards. One home about 3 miles east of Roberts just off Highway 48 had water in the basement. The Menan Buttes Public Access boat ramp flooded and a recreational day use area and boat ramp adjacent to Highway 48 flooded. Levees were raised in the Roberts area and Scotts Slough by the Menan Buttes Bridge to avoid flood waters.

Minidoka County - minor lowland flooding occurred along the Snake River in Heyburn. Water crept onto some landscaped areas adjacent to the river in the Crow Island vicinity. Walkways to some boat docks were submerged and at least one out building was flooded. Sandbags were placed along some properties.

Teton County - many small creeks were out of banks and caused minor impacts to secondary and back country roads.

Precipitation

Forty-four National Weather Service COOP and automated stations with climate data reported monthly precipitation for May. Thirty-seven of the stations received greater than 100% of normal precipitation.

NRCS SNOTEL data indicated May precipitation for the mountains ranged from 115% of normal for the Wood and Lost River Basins to 175% of normal for the Goose Creek Basin. The Bear River Basin and Upper Snake and other eastern Idaho basins received 140-160% of normal precipitation in May.

ASOS Daily Precipitation Records		
Station	New or Tied Record	Previous Record
Pocatello Airport	May 9 - .86" rainfall	.75" - 1967
Pocatello Airport	May 29 - .58" rainfall	.42" - 1990
Idaho Falls Airport	May 24 - .66" rainfall	.53" - 1953

COOP Monthly Precipitation Records		
Station	New or Tied Record	Previous Record
Driggs	4.28" (high)	3.83" - 2005

Reservoirs

Reservoir	% Capacity Apr. 30¹	% Capacity May 31²	Percent Change	% of Average²	% of Last Year²
American Falls	92	97	5	110	112
Bear Lake	50	63	13	84	144
Blackfoot	73	93	20	113	131
Henry's Lake	101	97	-4	99	98
Island Park	80	86	6	88	87
Little Wood	64	90	26	99	99
Mackay	70	59	-11	75	61
Magic	92	96	4	120	141
Oakley	46	70	24	117	165
Palisades	27	37	10	49	45
Ririe	86	96	10	110	112
Lake Walcott	98 ³	98 ⁴	3	n/a	n/a
Milner	117 ³	93 ⁴	27	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) NRCS Apr. 30, 2011; (2) NRCS May 31, 2011.

(3) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) May. 1, 2011 (4) BOR May 27, 2011

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